

- 11 -

CLAIMS

1. A process for producing a formic ester,
comprising reacting carbon monoxide with an alcohol to
produce a formic ester, wherein the reaction is performed
5 in the presence of an alkali metal-type catalyst and/or
an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst.

2. A process for producing a methanol, comprising
reacting carbon monoxide with an alcohol in the presence
of an alkali metal-type catalyst and/or an alkaline earth
10 metal-type catalyst to produce a formic ester, wherein a
hydrogenolysis catalyst for formic ester and hydrogen are
allowed to be present together in the reaction system to
hydrogenate the produced formic ester and thereby obtain
a methanol.

3. A process for producing a methanol, comprising
reacting carbon monoxide with an alcohol in the presence
of an alkali metal-type catalyst and/or an alkaline earth
metal-type catalyst to produce a formic ester, separating
the produced formic ester and hydrogenating the separated
20 formic ester by allowing a hydrogenolysis catalyst and
hydrogen to be present together, thereby obtaining a
methanol.

4. A process for producing a methanol, comprising
reacting an alcohol in the presence of an alkali metal-
25 type catalyst and/or an alkaline earth metal-type
catalyst, and a catalyst containing Cu simultaneously
with Mn and/or Re to obtain a methanol from carbon
monoxide and hydrogen.

5. A process for producing a formic ester,
30 comprising reacting carbon monoxide with an alcohol,
wherein the reaction is performed in the presence of a
catalyst containing Cu simultaneously with Mn and/or Re.

6. The production process as claimed in any one of
claims 1 through 4, wherein the alkali metal-type
35 catalyst and the alkaline earth metal-type catalyst are a
catalyst containing an alkali metal salt and a catalyst
containing an alkaline earth metal salt, respectively.

- 12 -

7. The process for producing a methanol as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein the hydrogenolysis catalyst is a solid catalyst and the alkali metal-type catalyst and/or the alkaline earth metal-type catalyst is supported on said solid catalyst and used for the reaction.

8. The production process as claimed in any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein the alcohol is a primary alcohol.

9. A catalyst for producing a methanol, which is obtained by loading an alkali metal-type catalyst and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst on a solid hydrogenolysis catalyst for formic ester.

10. A catalyst for producing a methanol, which is composed of an alkali metal-type catalyst and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst, and a catalyst containing Cu simultaneously with Mn and/or Re.

11. A catalyst for producing a formic ester, comprising Cu simultaneously with Mn and/or Re.